

I would now like to take a few minutes to tell you about the relationship that has begun in recent weeks between the OUR Project and Sainsbury's supermarket.

In reply to a speculative letter requesting support, sent in September this year, Linda Guy of the Bradford Sainsbury's invited our dietetic student, Mike, to meet herself and the store manager, Jamie Baker, to see what could be done.

The result has been that our Thursday afternoon OURspace drop-in group have been able to benefit from foods which we have been able to collect from the Bradford store on a Thursday lunchtime- things like bread, bananas, vegetables, and on a memorable day, coconuts- good foods which would have been thrown out as they had passed their 'sell by' date but were still within the 'use by' time period.

Further to this, Sainsbury's have replenished our emergency stock cupboard with tinned and packet goods (things ranging from basic toiletries to baked beans to meatballs; from toothpaste to corn flakes to rice). This donation has enabled us to give food to service users who have visited the project and have been desperately short of money for provisions for themselves and their families.

It was a particular pleasure to welcome Linda and Jamie to the OUR project a couple of weeks ago where they offered further support in the form of sterilisation units for those service users who have recently given birth- vital but expensive equipment for mothers with HIV.

Not content with the Bradford store's link with the OUR project, the Sainsbury's regional manager has asked us how their stores in other towns could help similar projects across the county. As a result, we have been able to put them in touch with similar service providers in York (North Yorkshire AIDS Action) and Halifax (Brunswick Centre) and they have made it clear that they are keen to expand these links between their stores and projects such as ours.

At the OUR project we have been overwhelmed by the commitment from Linda and Jamie from the Bradford Sainsbury's to supporting us. It is not easy to attract help from organisations

when your client group is HIV+ and may also be labelled 'asylum seeking'. We would like to take our hats off to them for their ability to see our service users as the fellow human beings that they are, despite the labels that can sometimes be used to describe them. We'd like to say thank you to Sainsbury's and we hope that this link will go on for a long time to come.